FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION
(please fill in the highlighted areas)

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited

B. Mailing Address: PO Box 1

C. City: Ovando State: MT Zip: 59854

Telephone: 406.677.6454

D. Contact Person: Ryen Aasheim

Address if different from Applicant:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone:

E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant): Mannix Family Ranch-Randy Mannix

Mailing Address:

City: Helmville State: MT Zip: 59843

Telephone: 406.793.5834

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

A. Project Name: Frazier Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project

River, stream, or lake: Frazier Creek

Location: Township 14N Range 12W Section 32

County: Powell

B. Purpose of Project:

The purpose of this project is to restore a migratory corridor for populations of pure westslope cutthroat trout to three miles of Frazier Creek as well as conserving instream flows and reducing sediment inputs.

C. Brief Project Description:

The Blackfoot River watershed in Montana is a critical area for populations of westslope cutthroat trout, a "species of special concern" where they occupy approximately 90% of their historical range. A variety of life history traits ranging from migratory to stream-resident traits are still expressed throughout the watershed and the focus of westslope cutthroat trout recovery in the Blackfoot Watershed is centered around the following objectives: 1) reestablishing fluvial life history forms by a) reducing or eliminating controllable sources of anthropogenic mortality, b) maintaining and restoring existing spawning and rearing habitats c) restoring damaged habitats and d) improving connectivity from the Blackfoot River to fluvial spawning areas; while 2) maintaining genetically pure population isolates. Westslope cutthroat trout require more complex habitats, colder water, lower sediment and more tributary access than currently exists in many areas of the Blackfoot Watershed. We view this proposed project as an opportunity to improve habitat conditions on an important westslope cutthroat trout stream, in a watershed where the life-histories of native, wild trout depend upon functioning tributaries for spawning and rearing habitat.

Frazier Creek is a small third-order tributary that flows for 3.8-miles through private lands and enters the middle Blackfoot River at river-mile 59.4 from the Garnet Mountains. Frazier Creek supports a genetically pure, disjunct population of stream resident westslope cutthroat trout with no other fish species present. This population has high conservation value and potential for improvement by eliminating headwater fragmentation.

The purpose of the Frazier Creek project is to restore migratory corridors and riparian and aquatic habitats in the Frazier Creek drainage. Frazier Creek fish passage is hindered by an undersized culvert and is blocked in its upper reaches by a reservoir that is used for irrigation purposes. This reservoir is currently managed so that any overflow water is released in a ditch off the back side of the reservoir that does not connect with downstream reaches of Frazier Creek (please refer to figure 1). With this project, we will restore a migration corridor for westslope cutthroat to three miles of instream habitat by constructing a step-pool channel on the front side of the reservoir to act as a fish ladder to connect Frazier Creek below the reservoir to the upstream reaches of Frazier Creek via the reservoir (photos 1-3 depict examples). An undersized culvert below the reservoir that causes channel impairments and block upstream migration will also be replaced with a new culvert following Stream Simulation methods and principles (photo 4 depicts a problem culvert in the Frazier Creek drainage). This project also has water conservation benefits as the proposed fish ladder will be designed to handle all ranges of flow, thus eliminating the loss of water through the back-side ditch. We anticipate dramatically improved flow conditions, as well as decreased instream water temperatures and sediment inputs.

This project focuses on correcting a major fisheries-related habitat problem in the Frazier Creek drainage (i.e. fish passage) and includes 1) removing an undersized culvert, 2) constructing an instream, step-pool "fish-ladder", 3)salvaging all historically "lost" instream flows and 4) revegetating disturbed areas, all of which are necessary for the improvement to ecological conditions that create and maintain native westslope cutthroat trout habitat. This project involves the continuation of the Blackfoot River Restoration program and will restore migratory corridors to ~three miles of high quality, instream habitat. Additional benefits include: 1) improvement of critical habitat for a species of special concern, 2) improved instream flow conditions and 3) improved water quality (sediment and temperature reductions) on-site and downstream. The project is also located on a ranch that participates in the FWP Block Management Program and is protected by a conservation easement.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: This project will improve fish passage to three miles of stream as well as reduce sediment inputs and conserve instream flows.

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): **$ 12,000**

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): $ 2,000 In-kind $
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): $ 87,150 In-kind $ 5,000
(attach verification) Landowner-$5,000; USFWS-$30,000; Chutney Foundation-$35,000; $19,150 One Fly Conservation; $3,000 Cinnabar.

Total Project Cost: **$ 106,150**

F. Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template

G. Attach specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support, and/or other information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete supplemental questionnaire (fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).

H. Attach land management and maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.

III. PROJECT BENEFITS*

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?:

Pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout.

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?:

This project will provide connectivity to three miles of Frazier Creek for pure populations of westlope cutthroat trout. Instream flows will also be conserved and sediment inputs will be substantially reduced.

C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

Yes, by improving access to three miles of instream habitat and providing angling opportunities on-site.

D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

Yes, by increasing wild trout habitat on a tributary to the Blackfoot River on a ranch that supports public access.

E. If the project requires maintenance, what is your time commitment to this project?:

The landowner has committed to signing a 20-year agreement.

F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

Already answered.

G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?:

This project involves the continuation of the Blackfoot River Restoration program and the restoration of a westslope cutthroat trout stream in the lower Blackfoot River drainage. Public benefits include: 1) restoration of a migratory corridor for a species of special concern, 2) improved instream habitat for pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout, 3) improved water quality (sediment reductions) on-site and downstream, and 4) conserved instream flows.

H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

No

I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No

J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

No

Each approved project sponsor must enter into a written agreement with the Department specifying terms and duration of the project.

IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor (if applicable): _____

***Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

Mail To: **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**
Habitat Protection Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Incomplete or late applications will be returned to applicant.
Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

*****Applications may be submitted at anytime, but must be received by the Future Fisheries Program office in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.*****